



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/724,839

12/01/2003

Gregory Dean Sunvold

P147

2171

27752 7590 09/11/2009
THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY
Global Legal Department - IP
Sycamore Building - 4th Floor
299 East Sixth Street
CINCINNATI, OH 45202

EXAMINER

OLSON, ERIC

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1623

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/11/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/724,839	Applicant(s) SUNVOLD ET AL.	
	Examiner ERIC S. OLSON	Art Unit 1623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 July 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 32-34, 40, 42, 47, 53 and 55 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 32-34, 40, 42, 47, 53 and 55 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on July 22, 2009 has been entered.

Detailed Action

This office action is a response to applicant's communication submitted July 22, 2009 wherein claim 32 is amended and claims 1-31, 36-38, 49-51, and 56-63 are cancelled. This application was filed December 1, 2003, and makes no priority claims.

Claims 32-34, 40, 42, 47, 53, and 55 are pending in this application.

Claims 32-34, 40, 42, 47, 53, and 55 as amended are examined on the merits herein.

Applicant's amendment, submitted July 22, 2009, with respect to the rejection of instant claims 32-34, 36, 40, 42, 47, 49, 53, and 55 under 35 USC 103(a) for being obvious over Hayek et al., has been fully considered and found to be persuasive to remove the rejection as the claims have been amended to require a particular ratio of kestose, nystose, and 1F-beta-fructofuranosylnystose that is not taught or suggested by Hayek et al. Therefore the rejection is withdrawn.

Applicant's amendment, submitted July 22, 2009, with respect to the rejection of instant claims 32-34, 36, 37, 40, 42, 47, 49, 50, 53, and 55 under 35 USC 103(a) for being obvious over Van Loo et al., has been fully considered and found to be persuasive to remove the rejection as the claims have been amended to require a particular ratio of kestose, nystose, and 1F-beta-fructofuranosylnystose that is not taught or suggested by Hayek et al. Therefore the rejection is withdrawn.

The following new grounds of rejection are introduced:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 32-34, 40, 42, 47, 53, and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

These claims are directed toward a method for treating a companion animal. However, neither the claims nor the specification clearly and distinctly define what a companion animal is. Although one skilled in the art would know that a companion animal is a domesticated nonhuman animal, and would clearly regard certain animals (e.g. cats, parakeets, goldfish, most dogs) as companion animals, and certain other animals (e.g. chickens, cows, lab rats) as clearly not being companion animals, one skilled in the art would not necessarily be able to categorize every animal as either

Art Unit: 1623

being or not being a companion animal. For example, horses, police dogs, and wild birds are all animals that could reasonably be considered companion animals, but could also reasonably be considered not to be companion animals. Therefore one skilled in the art would not reasonably be able to ascertain the scope of the claims, rendering them indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 32-34, 40, 42, 47, 53, and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heisey et al. (US pre-grant publication 2002/10132780, cited in PTO-892)

Heisey et al. discloses a method for treating bone or joint dysfunction in a subject comprising administering a composition comprising a chondroprotective agent, a sweetening agent, and at least 10% water. (p. 1 paragraphs 0008-0012) A preferred sweetening agent is a fructooligosaccharide mixture comprising a 40:50:10 ratio of nystose to kestose to fructosyl-nystose. (p. 6 paragraph 0091) Sweetening agents are preferably used in an amount of 0.00001-75% of the composition. (p. 6 paragraph 0097) Furthermore the composition can include soluble fiber. (p. 8 paragraph 0129) Preferred soluble fibers are fructooligosaccharides including a 40:50:10 ratio of nystose to kestose to fructosyl-nystose. (p. 9 paragraph 0132) The amount of soluble fiber is in the range of about 0.01-15%. (p. 9 paragraph 0134) The compositions are suitable for use in nonhuman animals including cats and dogs, which are reasonably considered to be companion animals. (p. 2 paragraph 0036) Heisey et al. does not specifically disclose a method where the composition has the specific claimed ratio of 30-40:50-60:5-15 kestose:nystose:fructosyl-nystose, or wherein the total amount of fructooligosaccharide is between 0.01 and 2%.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to practice the methods described by Heisey et al. using a composition containing between 0.01 and 2% of a fructooligosaccharide, and furthermore using the claimed ratio of kestose to nystose to fructofuranosyl-nystose. One of ordinary skill in

Art Unit: 1623

the art would have reasonably been motivated to adjust the amounts of various fructooligosaccharide components in the composition in order to optimize the biological effects of said composition. One of ordinary skill in the art would reasonably have expected success because the claimed amount of fructooligosaccharide falls within the broad range already disclosed by the reference for sweetening agents and soluble fiber, and because the specifically claimed ration of the three components is very close to the preferred ratio disclosed by Heisey et al.

Therefore the invention taken as a whole is *prima facie* obvious.

Claims 32-34, 40, 42, 47, 53, and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anantharaman et al. (US patent 5952033, cited in PTO-892) in view of Kaplan et al. (Reference included with PTO-892)

Anantharaman et al. discloses a gelatinized cereal product containing inulin that is palatable to dogs and cats, preferably comprising about 0.04% kestose, 0.04% nystose, and 0.04% fructosyl-nystose, for a total fructooligosaccharide content of about 0.12%. (column 2 lines 20-59) This composition can be administered to a pet (companion animal) to decrease fecal volume. (column 3 lines 12-17) Several examples (columns 6-9) are given in which compositions according to the invention are administered to dogs or cats, with examples 1 and 2 disclosing increased levels of bifidobacteria. Claim 23 of Anantharman et al. also claims a method for increasing the population density of lactic acid bacteria in a pet (i.e. a companion animal) comprising administering the claimed composition. Anantharaman et al. does not disclose a

Art Unit: 1623

method comprising administering a composition having the specific claimed ratio of kestose to nystose to furtofuranosyl-nystose.

Kaplan et al. discloses a study of the bacterial fermentation properties of a commercial fructooligosaccharide mixture comprising 32% GF₂ (kestose), 53.6% GF₃ (nystose), and 9.8% GF₄. (fructofuranosyl-nystose). (p. 2682, right column paragraphs 2-3) The fructooligosaccharide mixture was found to support the growth of various beneficial *Lactobacillus* and *Bifidobacterium* species. (p. 2683, left column table 1)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the commercial fructooligosaccharide mixture studied by Kaplan et al. in the compositions and methods described by Anantharaman et al. in an amount of 0.01%-2%. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use this composition because it is disclosed by Kaplan et al. to be useful for the desired effect, namely promoting the growth of beneficial lactic acid bacteria such as *Lactobaccilli* and *Bifidobacteria*. One of ordinary skill in the art would reasonably have expected success because substituting one known prior art composition with another that is known to have the same effect is well within the ordinary and routine level of skill in the art.

Therefore the invention taken as a whole is *prima facie* obvious.

Conclusion

No claims are allowed in this application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ERIC S. OLSON whose telephone number is (571)272-9051. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shaojia Anna Jiang can be reached on (571)272-0627. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Eric S Olson/
Examiner, Art Unit 1623
9/8/2009